

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 3559

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

REF: SANA 3539

SUMMARY: WE ARE NOT ABLE CONFIRM REFTEL AND OTHER REPORTS OF TROUBLES IN NORTH PROVOKED BY ANTI-HAMDI ELEMENTS, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT DEPOSED ARMY OFFICER MOUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB MAY BE TRYING PUSH GOVERNMENT INTO INCIDENTS IN HASHID DOMINATED SANA--SAADS CORRIDOR.

1. ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER BRITISH AMBASSADOR RELATED SERIES OF MINOR INCIDENTS OCCURING ON ROAD NORTH FROM SANA TO SAADA. HE SAID INCIDENTS BEGAN ON 12 DECEMBER, WHICH AFTER DEPARTURE OF ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN FOR HAJ WITH PRESIDENT HAMDI. INCIDENTS INVOLVED SHORT EXCHANGE OF FIRE (SUCH AS REPORTED IN REFTEL) IN SANATAIN (JUST NORTH OF KHARM) BETWEEN FOUR TRIBESMEN AND SMALL NUMBER GOVERNMENT TROOPS, ROAD-BLOCK BY TRIBESMEN WHICH TURNED BACK CAR WITH SOVIETS ON WAY NORTH TO SAADA, LANDMINE WHICH DAMAGED

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GOVERNMENT ARMORED CAR ON ROAD TO SAADA AND LETTER

FROM MOUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB TO MININT INSISTING THAT NO GOVERNMENT FORCES INTRUDE INTO KHARM AND OTHER NORTHERN CITIES.

2. YARG MININT MUHSIN AL-YUSUFI TODAY INSISTED THAT ROAD TO SAADA WAS OPEN, CITED INSTANCES OF PERSONS (INCLUDING HIMSELF) TRAVELLING NORMALLY ALONG WHOLE ROUTE, AND SAID THERE NO RPT NO INSTANCES OF ACTUAL FIGHTING. YUSUFI ADMITTED THAT NIGHT TRAVEL NOT RPT NOT GOOD IDEA BECAUSE ABU SHUWAIKIB WAS SPOILING FOR INCIDENTS. YUSUFI THEN PRODUCED FROM HIS POCKET A 14 DEC BORADSIDE FROM MUJAHID TO ARMED FORCES MEMBERS AND TRIBES.

3. LIKE EARLIER EXAMPLE IN EMBASSY POSSESSION, 12 DECEMBER CIRCULAR IS SIGNED BY ABU SHUWARIB AND APPEALS TO ARMED OFFICERS AND TRIBESMEN. ONE KEY OBJECT OF ALL ABU SHUWARIB BORADSIDES IS TO ASSERT CLOSE TIES AND INTERESTS BETWEEN TRIBESMEN AND OFFICERS, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS ALL MEMBERS OF SAME CLANS AND DEFENDERS OF SAME REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE. ABU DHUWARIB THEN DESCRIBES SANATAIN INCIDENT (PARA 1 ABOVE) AS PROVOCATION OF MUJAHID KUHALI, COMMANDER OF POWERFUL (AND ZAYDI) FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE IN AMRAN. HE CLAIMS SPECIAL UNITS OF "MERCENARIES" HAVE BEEN FORMED TO IMBITTER RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND NORTHERN TRIBAL LEVIES. ABU SHUWARIB ENDS BY WARNING OMINOUSLY AND VAGUELY OF "DISASTER".

4. IN EARLIER BROADSIDE, ABU SHUWARIB WAS MORE OPEN; HE ATTACKED ONE-MAN RULE (READ HAMD) AND END OF DEMOCRACH (READ TERMINATION OF PARLIAMENT).

5. MININT YUSUFI SAID HE THOUGHT THAT, IF HAJ VISIT OF ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR AND IBRAHIM HAMD) RESULTED IN RECONCILIATION, ALL THE TROUBLE IN NORTH WOULD BE QUICKLY SETTLED BY MOVE AGAINST ABU SHUWARIB, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS VAIN, RECKLESS MAN WITH FRIENDS ONLY AMONG THE SOVIETS. YUSUFI SAID VERY PLAINLY THAT ALL THE TROUBLE IN THE NORTH WAS CAUSED AT THE MOMENT BY SCHEMING ABU SHUWARIB, NOT BY ANY COALITION OF TRIBES AGAINST

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THE GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: ABU SHUWARIB CLEARLY HAS REASON TO FEAR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AND IBRAHIM HAMD, PARTICULARLY IF IT OCCURS WITH SAUDI BLESSING. HE DOESN'T HAVE STRONG TRIBAL BASE HIMSELF. HE MIGHT HAVE PROVOKED SOME INCIDENTS TO COMPLICATE RECONCILIATION, BUT THE EVIDENCE IS CONFLICTING. YUSUFI WOULD NOT HAVE APPROVED

TRAVEL NORTH BY AMCITS IF THERE WAS DANGER.
STILL, WHAT WE KNOW SUGGESTS YARG WOULD LIVE TO MOVE
AGAINST ABU SHUWARIB AND HAS BEEN RESTRAINED IN PAST
ONLY BY DESIRE NOT TO ANGER ABU SHUWARIB BROTHER-IN-LAW,
ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN. NOW TIME TO SETTLE SCORES MAY BE
NEAR.
RANSOM

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NNN

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